

NAVY DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF NAVIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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BUREAU OF NAVIGATION NEWS BULLETIN NO. 48.

The Bureau requests that this Bulletin be given free circulation among officers and that items of interest be published to the Enlisted Personnel. This bulletin is NOT confidential and may be destroyed at the discretion of the Commanding Officer. Constructive suggestions for improvement will be appreciated.

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OFFICER SITUATION ON DESTROYERS.

The following extract from a valuable report made by a destroyer Commander of the Fleet is quoted for information of the Service:

"The question of detail of junior officers to destroyers is such a serious one that I think it proper here to furnish the Bureau of Navigation with the destroyer point of view of the present method of sending them to a destroyer after they have been one year on a battleship or other larger vessel. Such an officer, in most cases, immediately upon reporting to the destroyer is made the head of a ship's department. With the department, there goes to him the operation and custody of thousands of dollars worth of more or less delicate and complicated material. To keep this material up to the proper state of efficiency, especially with enlisted personnel of little experience, he must put forth the utmost of his energy and ability. Should he lack in either of these qualities the efficiency of the material and indirectly the efficiency of the fleet must suffer. This cannot be warded against by the efforts of other officers attached to the ship for their duties are such that they can give but little time to his supervision and instruction - he must develop and produce practically without assistance. This, the contrary of what he experiences on a larger ship where his responsibilities are comparatively few and are well supervised, demands he not only have ability but marked ability backed by resourcefulness and a sense of responsibility. Junior officers with these qualifications are not always selected by the Commanding Officer of the larger ship because of the logical choice of one whose transfer will least effect the efficiency of their own ship. In this respect a brief of the qualifications of two ensigns received aboard this vessel during the past nine months is cited. The first of these officers received came from a battleship. He was on her six months in the fire control division. In port he stood junior officer of the deck watch on the forward starboard gangway used by the Captain and Admiral. At sea he stood watch below decks to see that routine below decks was observed and that the crew remained in uniform below decks. He at no time stood watch on the bridge when the vessel was underway. From this duty he was ordered to duty aboard this vessel. Upon his receipt he had been out of

the Naval Academy one year but had but six months training none of which was in deck or engineering duties or in watch standing at sea. The second of these officers was received from a battleship after he had been but eight months out of the Naval Academy. During that time he was a junior division officer of a broadside division. He stood watch in port as junior officer of the deck and at sea as junior officer of the watch."

The only source of supply of experienced officers for assignment to destroyers and other small vessels is the battleships, and the necessity for intensive training of ensigns on board battleships with the purpose of releasing them for important duties elsewhere is sufficiently apparent to need no comment.

LEGISLATION:

Senate Bill S. 1807 was reported out by the Senate Naval Affairs Committee during the last session of Congress with the recommendation that it be enacted into law with the following changes:

That the present provisions of law relating to the transfer of enlisted men to Class 1-D, Fleet Naval Reserve be restored.

Members of the Fleet Naval Reserve shall not be required to take a physical examination every four years.

The committee also struck out the provision for the retirement of persons injured while on active duty for training.

The House Naval Affairs Committee reported out a Bill HR 9634 prepared by Representative Britten in place of the Naval Reserve Bill recommended by the Department, which contains practically the same provisions as the Department's Bill.

The provision for the retirement of person injured while on training duty was also eliminated and a provision giving such persons benefits of the Federal Employees Compensation Act was substituted.

At the convening of the second session of the present Congress in December, it will not be necessary to retrace the steps already taken in connection with the enactment of Reserve Legislation and it is hoped that the Bills will receive favorable consideration and pass during the session.

NAVAL RESERVE CRUISES.

Cruises of Naval Reserve are now in progress in the First, Ninth, Thirteenth and Fourteenth Districts and the District of Columbia.

The following table indicates the number of Naval Reservists who can be given training during the fiscal year 1925.

District	Class 2		Class 3		Class 5		Class 6	
	Officers	Men	Officers	Men	Officers	Men	Officers	Men
1	173	720	21		55	20	48	240
3	270	1200	26		30	20	80	400
4	97	387	10		10		26	130
5	65	273	1		10		18	90
6	21	120	2		5		8	40
7	10	60			4		4	20
8	42	330	12		6		22	110
9	374	2161	4		35	20	144	720
11	58	181	2		10		13	60
12	64	201	3		5		13	67
13	65	181	1		5		12	63
14	6	33					2	10
15	2	33					2	10
D.C.	28	120	1		5		8	40
	1255	6000	91		160	60	400	2000

FOUR MONTHS' SERVICE INTERPRETED.

The Bureau had occasion recently to interpret the meaning of "four months' service" as contained in the Bureau of Navigation Circular Letters No. 45-24 and No. 51-24. "Four months' service" means four months total service in the Navy with no deductions made for time lost for any cause.

EFFICIENCY IN ENLISTED PERSONNEL - PETTY OFFICERS.

Recently two radiomen were transferred from a shore station to sea before the expiration of their tours of shore duty. The following extracts from the Bureau's comment thereon is quoted: (the reason given was "inefficient performance of duty") - - - - -

"Information is requested as to what steps have been taken to reduce these men in rating for this inefficiency. The Service is not benefitted by merely transferring an inefficient man from one command to another and the retention of inefficient men in petty officer ratings is highly undesirable. The Bureau believes that the practice of transferring undesirable men from one command to another has grown to undue proportions and is resulting in the retention in the Service of many inefficient men whom commanding officers are not reducing in rating. This can only result in the lowering of the general standard of petty officers which the whole Service is striving along other lines at all times to raise."

TRADE SCHOOLS.

The Bureau has issued orders to commanding officers of trade schools to return all men upon completion of course of instruction to the vessels from which

received. Men who do not complete the course of instruction, due to inaptitude, are also to be returned to their own ships. Those who are received from shore stations, receiving ships, etc., will be sent to sea in accordance with current orders of the Bureau, giving preference to duty desired by the individuals wherever practicable.

The Electrical School at San Diego will be placed in commission about 1 August. Quotas have been assigned for this new school to be filled by recruits from Great Lakes and San Diego, and by non-rated men from the Battle Fleet.

The Aerographers School at Pensacola has been closed. The Aerographers School at Anacostia will be placed in commission in August. All men eligible for change to Aerographer ratings have been transferred. Future requirements of this branch will be filled through the lowest rating, aerographer, third class, by qualification after a course of instruction at the school at Anacostia.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT
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WASHINGTON, D. C.

MR. HENKEL,
CHIEF CLERK.

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BUREAU OF NAVIGATION NEWS BULLETIN NO. 50 - - - - -

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ENLISTED MEN - - - TRADE SCHOOLS

Recently the Bureau was in receipt of a request from a civilian who had interested himself in the advancement of an enlisted man, that the man in question be transferred to a trade school. The following is quoted from the Bureau's reply:

"The Department allots a definite quota of men to certain trade schools to be filled by details from the Fleet. These schools include machinist's mates, coppersmiths, electricians, torpedomen, aviation carpenter's mates, etc. The selection of the men for these schools is left to the commanders afloat, but, with such an assortment to choose from, a boy who is earnestly desirous of going to a trade school, should, without great difficulty, soon be selected for one of these schools and his transfer effected without further reference to the Department."

DISRATING FOR INCOMPETENCY.

Recently, upon the recommendation of his commanding Officer, the Bureau directed the reduction in rating of a petty officer for incompetency. Later, after his transfer to another station, the man requested restoration to his former rating on the ground that the provisions of Article D-4153, Bureau of Navigation Manual had not been met in his case; in that his marks for the preceding quarter had not shown incompetency.

This provision in Article D-4153 is a regulation limiting the action of the commanding officer, but is not in any sense a restriction of the inherent right of the Bureau to effect any reduction in rating for cause.

DISCHARGES UNDER PROVISION CONTAINED IN ACT OF 28 MAY 1924.

The Act of 28 May 1924, making appropriations for the naval service for the fiscal year 1925, contained the following provision:

"That hereafter upon the presentation of satisfactory evidence as to his age and upon the application for discharge by his parent or guardian presented to the Secretary of the Navy within sixty days after the date of enlistment, any man enlisted after 1 July 1924, in the Naval service or Marine Corps, under twenty one years of age, who was enlisted without the written consent of his parent or guardian, if any, shall be discharged for his own convenience."

In order to obtain a discharge under the above quoted provision, application for discharge and evidence of date of birth must be received in the Department within sixty days of the date of enlistment.

The date of enlistment is the date the man is sworn in.

The man must be under twenty one years of age, not only when application is made but when discharge is ordered by the Department.

In case the parent having legal custody, or the guardian, has consented in writing to the enlistment, the enlistment is binding and the man will not be discharged on the application of the other parent.

The parent having legal custody is the father (in case both parents are living together) or the parent awarded custody of the minor in case of divorce.

The Secretary of the Navy may in any case authorize discharge without refund for clothing gratuity.

Men discharged under this provision, who are under eighteen years of age at the date of discharge, are entitled to transportation in kind in accordance with the Act of 22 September 1922. If over eighteen, they are not entitled to transportation in kind or to travel allowance.

The above quoted act does not prohibit the discharge of men, who enlisted under the age of eighteen without consent, at any time, on request of parent (Act of 3 March 1915).

The Bureau has issued instructions to the Recruiting service to require evidence of date of birth in all cases of first enlistment and to accept no man under twenty-one without parents consent.

Men discharged under this provision will be discharged "by Special Order of the Bureau of Navigation for fraudulent underage enlistment".

MEN PLACED ON PROBATION

An examination of the records of 2376 enlisted men of the Navy who have been placed on probation shows the following:

	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
Honorable	420	17.7
Good	180	7.6
Ordinary	589	24.8
Undesirable	64	2.7
Special Order	96	4.0
Bad Conduct	67	2.8
Dishonorable	643	27.1
Deserted	211	8.8
Died	21	.9
Medical Survey	52	2.2
Unable to identify	53	1.4
TOTAL	2376	100.0

Of these 2376 men, 400 reenlisted in the service after completing probation. Of the 400 who reenlisted 200 are still in the service including 16 who have been transferred to the Fleet Naval Reserve, Classes 1-C and 1-D. The remaining 200 were separated from the service as follows:

<u>DISCHARGE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
Honorable	45
Good	24
Undesirable	19
Bad Conduct	33
Dishonorable	19
Special Order	19
Medical Survey	10
Deserted	31
	<u>200</u>

NAVAL OBSERVATORY TO REMAIN UNDER NAVY DEPARTMENT.

The final report of the Departmental Reorganization Board, which considered the reassignment of certain institutions has been published. The brief representations by the Secretary of the Navy and the President of the General Board, and also the more lengthy and detailed representations by the Superintendent of the Naval Observatory showing the activities of that institution and their primary importance to the Navy, were such that the transfer of the Naval Observatory was apparently not even considered seriously. It is hoped that this will be the end of the attempts which have been made at frequent intervals for over 50 years to take the Naval Observatory away from the Navy Department.

GYRO COMPASSES.

Contracts have recently been made for 40 latest type Sperry gyroscope compasses for installation on destroyers; also for modifying 10 old Sperry gyro compasses to make them equal to the new ones contracted for.

A second series of tests of a new compass, known as the Briggs-Heyl earth inductance compass, have been made on a destroyer and show great improvement in the compass since the first test. Further modifications and tests will be made and even better results are hoped for so that a compass of this type will be found of great advantage to the Navy, on board ship and probably for aircraft.

SPECIAL TIME SIGNAL.

A special time signal for the benefit of longitude determinations by the Canadian Geodetic Survey and the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey began on July 8 and will be continued until the latter part of August. This signal begins at 2:55 a.m. and ends at 3:00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time (8:00 a.m. G.M.T.), and is sent on a wave length of 17145 meters from the Annapolis Radio Station.

NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION VISITS OBSERVATORY.

During a recent convention of the National Educational Association in Washington, a large number of the Association visited the Naval Observatory both in day-time and at night, on the latter occasion being shown some interesting celestial objects through the Observatory telescopes.

SUMATRA SOLAR ECLIPSE EXPEDITION.

The Navy Department has approved the Naval Observatory project for sending an expedition to observe the total solar eclipse in Sumatra in January, 1926. From the results of the observations which it is expected to make, it is believed that valuable data will be obtained in regard to magnetic disturbances on the Sun which cause magnetic disturbances on the Earth, and, which at times seriously affect cable, telegraph, and possibly radio communications.

Photographs of the Sun are taken on every clear day and reports are made daily to telegraph companies desiring them. Reports by telegraph are made when any sun-spots appear as these sun-spots indicate magnetic storms, and if care is not taken will put cables out of commission. Anything that affects communications is vital to the Navy.

REPAIR NAUTICAL INSTRUMENTS.

During the year ending 30 June 1924, there were repaired at the Nautical Instrument Repair Shop at the Naval Observatory 3567 instruments, including aerological instruments and various kinds of navigational and surveying instruments, the total value of repairs being \$24,265.56.

EMPLOYMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF RETIRED OFFICERS.

The Comptroller General, under date of 28 June, 1924, has construed the Act of 31 May 1924, relative to this subject as follows:

- (a) Retired officers of the Navy who have been retired for incapacity incurred in the line of duty are authorized, without prejudice to their retired pay, to receive the salary of civil positions if regularly appointed thereto. The employment of retired officers in the diplomatic or consular service is, however, not authorized.
- (b) The law of the Comptroller's decisions does not permit the employment in a civilian capacity of officers retired other than for incapacity incurred in the line of duty.

The Act of 31 May, 1924, reads as follows:

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress Assembled, That Section 2 of the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Appropriation Act, approved July 31, 1894, is amended by adding at the end thereof a new sentence to read as follows: Retired enlisted men of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard retired for any cause, and retired officer of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard who have been retired for injuries received in battle or for injuries received in battle or for injuries or incapacity incurred in line of duty shall not, within the meaning of this section, be construed to hold or to have held an office during such retirement."

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